

## Message Text

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ACTION HEW-08

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8458

UNCLAS CAIRO 6333

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TPHY OSCI EG

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF SFCF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

REF: A. STATE 179249 B. CAIRO 5928

1. WE ARE PUZZLED BY DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO CAIRO 5928 REGARDING PAYMENT OF PER DIEM TO EGYPTIAN PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS TRAVELING TO THE UNITED STATES. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, SOME POUNDS PAID TO PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS HAVE BEEN CONVERTED THROUGH MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOREIGN EXCHANGE ALLOCATION INTO DOLLARS TO PROVIDE FOR PAYMENT OF PER DIEM WHILE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS ARE TRAVELING IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS HAS NOT HOWEVER BEEN AN ESTABLISHED PRACTICE AND REQUIRES NO SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION ON OUR PART AS PI'S HAVE USED THE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THEM FOR SALARIES FOR THIS PURPOSE. AS A RESULT, WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND REFERENCE TO "AUTHORIZATIONS TO CONVERT PROJECT FUNDS TO DOLLARS FOR EXPENSES IN THE US." IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE TO ADVISE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS THAT POUNDS WHICH THE EMBASSY DISBURSES TO THEM FOR THEIR PROJECTS ARE TO BE SPENT IN EGYPT. WE HAVE ALWAYS ASSUMED MOREOVER THAT THERE WAS SOME WAY OF AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF SOME OF THE FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR THE GRANT IN ACTUAL DOLLARS THROUGH A SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION GRANTED TO THE SUPERVISING AGENCY IN WASHINGTON. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION.

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2. EXCEPT IN A FEW CASES WE HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS WHO HAVE TRAVELED TO THE UNITED STATES HAVE MADE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR ROOM AND SUBSISTENCE WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES, FOR EXAMPLCGN WITH AN AFFILIATED UNIVERSITY OR OTHER ORGNIZATION. THIS IS WHAT WE BELIEVED WOULD BE THE CASE FOR DR. NEMAT HASHEM. SHE HAD INFORMED US THAT SHE MADE A SIMILAR VISIT TO BOSTON CHILDREN'S BOSPITAL IN 1972, AND THAT SHE WAS GIVEN FREE ROOM AND A PER DIEM CHECK IN DOLLARS FOR HER STAY. AGAIN, IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THIS DOLLAR AMOUNT WAS ARRANGED EITHER THROUGH AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURE OF PROJECT FUNDS IN DOLLARS OR BY A SPONSORING INSTITUTION. BELIEVE THAT DHEW SHOULD

REVIEW THIS PROBLEM IN SPECIFIC REGARD TO DR. HASHIM'S PROPOSED VISIT. WE BELIEVE IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT HER PLANS HAVE PROCEEDED THIS FAR WITH ASSURANCES THAT SHE WOULD HAVE SUBSISTENCE FUNDS BUT WITHOUT A CLEAR IDEA OF HOW THESE FUNDS WOULD BE PROVIDED. IN THIS CASE, BELIEVE THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO PROVIDE DR. HASHEM, WHO IS ONE OF OUR MOST ABLE AND DEDICATED PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS, WITH WAY TO COMPLETE HER PRESENT PLANS (FYI, ON BASIS OF PLANNING FOR TRIP TO BOSTON, DR. HASHEM HAS ALSO ARRANGED TO REPRESENT EIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY AT THE INTERNATIONAL PEDIATRICS CONGRESS IN ARGENTINA).

3. FOR SCI RICHMOND. BELIEVE THAT CASES MENTIONED STATE 179249 ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES IN WHICH THE QUESTION OF PER DIEM FUNDS IN THE UNITED STATES WILL ARISE,

ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE INCREASE IN COOPERATION IN THE SCIENTIFIC FIELD BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT, PRINCIPALLY THROUGH THE SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY FUNDS PROGRAM PROJECTS. RECOMMEND THAT DEPT POLL THE VARIOUS

AGENCIES INVOLVED AND ARRIVE AT SOME UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE PROVISION OF DOLLAR PER DIEM FOR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS IN THE UNITED STATES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT, EVEN GIVEN RELAXED EXCHANGE CONTROLS HERE IN EGYPT, WHICH MIGHT ALLOW FOR THE CONVERSION OF POUNDS INTO DOLLARS FOR TRAVEL, WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE THESE GRANTS TO BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. THESE ARE FUNDS INTENDED TO ASSIST THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN EGYPT AND THEY SHOULD NOT BECOME A BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DRAIN. BELIEVE IF IT IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR EGYPTIAN PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS TO BE PRESENT IN THE UNITED STATES, OTHER

ARRANGEMENTS

FOR PAYING PER DIEM CAN AND SHOULD BE MADE.

ALSO SUGGEST THAT ONCE STANDARD POLICY GUIDELINES ON THIS  
QUESTION RESOLVED, ALL REPEAT ALL PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS  
BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN EGYPT SHOULD BE ADVISED  
OF THESE SO THAT WE WILL NOT HAVE A REPETITION OF DR.  
HASHEM'S SITUATION.

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